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Sailing Dún Laoghaire Regatta

Maybury's 'Joker 2' emerges as boat of the week

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After a blistering pace despite light to medium winds since Thursday, the Volvo Dún Laoghaire Regatta ended yesterday with a total of 397 races sailed across 34 classes.

John Maybury's *Joker 2* of the Royal Irish Yacht Club was judged boat of the week as well as top-performing boat under IRC handicap for his performance in the 28-strong division

I event.

He led a trio of clubmates, also J109's with Richard and Tim Goodbody's *White Mischief* and Ronan Harris' *Jigamaree* placing second and third respectively as both vied to displace Maybury; neither was able to break *Joker 2*'s grip on the fleet.

It was a similar story in the tiny division 0 where Tony Ackland's visiting *Dark Angel* from Swansea sealed a three-nil se-

ries of events in Irish waters that started with the ICRA national championships a month ago followed by the O'Leary Life Sovereigns Cup week prior to Dún Laoghaire.

However, it was a closer call for the Welsh crew as Jay Colville's *Forty Licks* from East Down YC came within a point of taking the class.

Dave Cullen's *Checkmate XV* from Howth YC emerged from the calm that delayed the single

race final day for Class 2 with another win, marking a seven-race series in which he counted first or second places.

Cullen's clubmate Richard Colwell had one of the stand-out performances of the series in division 3 that enjoyed nine races in total. His Corby 25

Fusion counted all race wins with the two event discards used to drop two second places. He won the class with a 10-point lead but the eight-boat

entry mitigated against a shot at the overall event prize.

Howth's success at the regatta continued in the 31-boat coastal event with Paddy Gregory's *Flashback* taking the top prize. The class ended the event as it started with a relatively short race around the perimeter of the bay due to the near calm conditions.

Wind was less of an issue close to the Dublin shore for the dinghies and dayboats that had

steadier conditions compared to the bigger boats nearer the infamous "transition zones" where the sea breeze meets the forecast gradient wind.

At the Salthill and South Bull course areas, the pressure held for a full race programme with several notable results.

The final entry tally came to 477 boats comprising approximately 2,500 crew plus over 300 volunteers both afloat and ashore.